

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02858 122026Z

60 R
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
----- 112680
R 121935Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7829

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 2858

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PA
SUBJ: REACTION TO BICENTENNIAL

REF: STATE 169682

REACTION TO BICENTENNIAL IN PARAGUAY HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY
WARMER AND MORE POSITIVE THAN WE ANTICIPATED, CONSIDERING
PARAGUAY'S RELATIVE ISOLATION AND LACK OF CONTACT WITH THE US.
HIGHPOINT OF CELEBRATIONS WAS PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S PRESENCE
FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR AT AMBASSADOR'S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION.
SINCE PRESIDENT NORMALLY DOES NOT GO TO SUCH EVENTS, HIS ATTENDANCE
CLEARLY WAS INTENDED TO HONOR BICENTENNIAL AND US. ALSO ATTENDANCE
OF FOREIGN MINISTER AT BICENTENNIAL LECTURE OF LOCAL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY HAD SIMILAR INTENT. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF FLATTERING
MEDIA COVERAGE AND SPONTANEOUS WELL-ATTENDED CULTURAL PROGRAMS,
THESE GESTURES HAVE HAD EFFECT OF CREATING ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD
WILL TOWARDS THE US. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THIS REACTION
IS QUITE GENUINE.
LANDAU

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
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